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NOTES

THE Saxon Minister of Education, has, on the ground of health, forbidden girls attending the public schools to wear corsets.

THE New England Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools meets at Harvard University, October 13 and 14.

THE Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools of the Middle States and Maryland meets on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving Day at the State Normal School, Trenton, N. J.

HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY have published a handy edition in paper covers of *Le Gendre de M. Poirier*, par Emile Augier et Jules Sandeau. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Stuart Symington, Ph.D., Professor of the Romance Languages in Amherst College.

ANOTHER easy gate to geometry is the *Primer of Geometry* by James Sutherland (Longmans). The book is simple and full of illustrations. These illustrations are plain and clear, though not particularly artistic. The book gives one the impression of being rather too much "written down" to children.

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY have issued an attractive edition of *Don Quixote*, edited by Clifton Johnson, for school and home reading. The ten illustrations by George Cruikshank add greatly to the interest of the book. Print and binding are good, and the total result is all that can be desired in a handy edition of this classic.

SOMEWHAT out of the usual run of modern language texts is *Aus Deutschen Meisterwerken*, erzählt von Sigmon M. Stern. The book is provided with an introduction and good vocabulary, but no notes. The introduction, however, takes the place of notes to a large extent. The book is handsomely printed and published.

The Story of the Great Republic, by H. A. Guerber (American Book Company) is intended as an historical reader, as an elementary text-book, or as a supplementary reader. Probably it will be found most available in the latter capacity, though as a text-book it may be found available in some schools. The style of the book is easy and attractive.

Précis de l'Histoire de France, par Alcée Fortier (The Macmillan Company) contains in brief form the whole history of France. The French style is clear and the book is easy reading. If pupils can be prevailed upon to

use an historical work rather than a work of literature for class purposes, this book will be found one of the most available of any text-books of that nature in French.

AN interesting new text-book in modern languages for somewhat advanced students is *La Retraite de Moscou*, par Le Comte de Segur, with introduction and notes by O. B. Super (Holt). It contains a brief historical introduction and a briefer bibliographical sketch of the author, with a few judicious notes at the end. Professor Super's careful and satisfactory work as an editor is well known.

DR. A. E. WINSHIP begins a series of about twelve articles in the *Journal of Education*, September 14, upon the study of the contrast between "The Jukes," as studied by R. L. Dugdale, of the New York Prison Commission, and his own study of the family of Jonathan Edwards. Mr. Dugdale studied 1200 of the Jukes; Dr. Winship has studied 1400 of the family of Jonathan Edwards.

FOR the genuineness of the following "howler" we can vouch. It is copied verbatim from the Divinity paper of a pupil in one of the nine public schools. "Healing the Limb man, casting the unclean spirit of a man into a swine, healing the Leopard, healing Jairus's daughter, raising Talitha Gumei from death." According to the same youth, the lady who came to hear the wisdom of Solomon was queen Beer Sheba.—*London Journal of Education*.

THE city fathers of Dresden have decided not to accept proposals for the construction of school baths. The vice chairman is reported to have said that one finds the strongest men where baths are unknown. The London School Board is, at least, in advance of Dresden on this question of baths for children. In some things we are ahead even of Germany.—*London Journal of Education*.

IN the *School Bulletin* Mr. C. W. Bardeen has been publishing regularly for several years past a series of studies on *Author's Birthdays*. These he is now collecting in book form. The second series contains exercises for the celebration of the birthdays of Bayard Taylor, Lowell, Howells, Motley, Emerson, Saxe, Thoreau, E. S. Phelps-Ward, Parkman, Cable, Aldrich, J. C. Harris. Many teachers will find these books useful helps.

PROFESSOR HEMPL, of the University of Michigan, in his *Easiest German Reading for Learners Young or Old*, (Ginn & Company) has adopted the novel device of translating into idiomatic German well-known English Nursery Rhymes. Upon these rhymes conversational exercises are based. It cannot fail to be comforting to the learner on opening this book to find in the first sentence, "Dies ist das Haus, das Hans baute," a very old friend even though in a grotesque suit of clothes.

Minna von Barnhelm oder Das Soldatenglück; Von Gotthold Lessing with Introduction and Notes by A. B. Nichols, of Harvard University. (Henry Holt & Company) is a good edition of a school classic. The introduction is interesting and the illustrations, including reproductions of twelve etchings by Chodowiecki and a portrait of Lessing add much to the attractiveness of the volume.

Corn Plants, Their Uses and Ways of Life, by Fredrick Leroy Sargent (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.), is an interesting little book, with a number of attractive illustrations and interesting experiments. It is not a text-book in botany, but as a supplementary reader in grammar grades or even in high-school grades it ought to find a useful place. It is attractively written and artistically published.

A GOOD elementary reading book is *Cinq Histoires* edited by Baptiste Méras and Sigmon M. Stern. The five stories are Claretie's Boum-Boum, Dumas' Entrée Dans Le Monde, Maupassant's La Parure, Daudet's La Chevre de M. Seguin, and de Maistre's Les Prisonniers du Caucase. There is a good vocabulary, an introduction containing biographical notes, and a section "To Teachers" which abounds more in figurative writing than in pedagogical principles.

PROFESSOR JAMES TAFT HATFIELD, Northwestern University, has brought out a handsome new edition of Goethe's *Hermann und Dorothea* in Macmillan's Series of German Classics, which is being issued under the general editorship of Professor W. T. Hewett, of Cornell University. Professor Hatfield has access to the extensive material collected by Professor Hewett, as well as to the Schneider collection of original editions of the German classics. The text of the poem is believed to be particularly free from errors.

"JEAN PAUL" has a unique place in German literature. If known at all in this country it is mainly as the author of that curious work on education, *The Levana*." The little work which has recently appeared, *Selections from the Works of Jean Paul Friedrich Richter*, edited by George Stuart Collins (American Book Company) ought to serve as a charming and stimulating introduction for many American students to the works of one who has delighted successive generations in the fatherland.

TEACHERS who wish to carry on laboratory work in human physiology will find a most interesting and valuable help called *Laboratory Exercises in Anatomy and Physiology*, by James Edward Peabody (Henry Holt & Co.). The work is arranged as the usual form of laboratory guide with interleaved blank pages for notes. The experiments seem to be simple and practicable for secondary schools. There is some question as to the value of laboratory work in physiology in secondary schools, but those who are convinced of its value will do well to give careful attention to this little book.

AN excellent beginning for the study of logic is furnished by *An Introductory Logic*, by James Edward Creighton (The Macmillan Company). The book is comprehensive in its scope and possesses those qualities of clearness and thoroughness which the author is well known to possess. As a text-book or as a work for private reading the book will be very serviceable. It is doubtful whether any book can make the subject of logic really easy, but Professor Creighton's work goes far in that direction.

Laboratory Course in Wood Turning, by Michael Joseph Golden (Harper & Brothers), gives a series of twelve exercises in woodwork, every step being fully illustrated by diagrams and cuts as a guide for school work. The introduction contains an account of the tools necessary and the manner in which to use them and care for them, with general directions that will be of service. The statements are clear and brief, and the book seems admirably adapted for its purpose.

IN *Seed Dispersal*, by W. J. Beal (Ginn & Company), we have an interesting bit of ecology, though the author has not ventured to use that term. The book is interesting reading. How it would work into the school course is a question that does not suggest an obvious answer. Many things are done now in the name of supplementary reading, and perhaps the adoption of this book may be one of them. Under whatever guise it meets the pupils, it is likely to do them good.

MR. OSCAR PHELPS AUSTIN, whose *Uncle Sam's Secrets* met with such favorable reception, has written another work, *Uncle Sam's Soldiers* (Appleton's Home-Reading Series). The book describes the United States Army under the guise of a story. The descriptions are full and clear, the illustrations are numerous and excellent, and the whole make-up of the book is calculated to render its reading an agreeable pastime to the class for which it is intended.

A PRACTICAL book is *Advanced Lessons in Human Physiology and Hygiene*, by Winfred E. Baldwin (Werner School Book Company). The book is fully illustrated and does not abound in horrible examples. Alcohol and tobacco are, of course, treated in such a way as to meet the requirements of the laws relating to such study, and this treatment seems to be on the whole rather reasonable and sensible. This book is worthy of careful consideration in making up lists of text-books.

IN the *History for Young Readers Series* (D. Appleton & Company) Mr. Frederick A. Ober presents us with a charming little account of *Spain*, beginning with Ancient Iberia and ending with the signing of the Treaty of Paris; all this in less than 300 small pages. Mr. Ober is a clear and interesting writer and has produced a most attractive book. Young readers are apt to

be more interested in Spain now than a few years ago, and this book of Mr. Ober's will meet this new interest more than half way.

How to Name the Birds, by H. E. Parkhurst (Chas. Scribner's Sons) is a new departure in bird classification intended to aid the field ornithologist in determining an unknown species. It is a handy guide to classification, and its use is made easier by two full page colored plates showing the distinct areas of the bird's body, and a third full page plate showing the various forms of tail. The little book is just of the size to slip in the pocket and admirably adapted for enabling one to answer Emerson's question, "And hast thou named all the birds without a gun."

DR. GEORGE W. FITZ, of Harvard University, has revised a new edition of Martin's *Human Body*. The revision was undertaken with the idea of bringing the book into accord with later developments of Physiology by simplifying some parts and expanding others, and enriching the text with the addition of illustrations. Every effort has been made to avoid injuring those features of Professor Martin's work which have made the book so favorably known. In its revised form, with the added prestige of Dr. Fitz's name, the book will doubtless enjoy an extended field of usefulness.

THOSE who are acquainted with the charming little buckram edition of *On Rend l'Argent*, by Francois Coppée, edited by Thomas Bertram Bronson, will be glad to note that Henry Holt & Co. have just issued *Scènes de Voyages*, by Victor Hugo, in the same form, prepared by the same editor. These are quite out of the ordinary run of school text-books, which are often distinguished by a somewhat forbidding exterior. They are somewhat elegantly gotten up, in handy size for the general reader to slip in his pocket, while at the same time the price is not prohibitive.

STILL another bird book; this time, *Birds of the United States*, by Austin C. Apgar (American Book Company). This is a larger and more ambitious undertaking than those which have been mentioned recently in these pages. It contains full descriptions of the birds of North America, two series of keys, one for identifying prepared specimens, and the other for identifying living birds, map showing the territory covered by the birds described in the book, and very many excellent plates which will serve a useful purpose in study, and add greatly to the attractiveness of the volume.

THE world is re-discovering birds. At least, such is the impression one gets from the number of books about birds continually finding their way to an editor's table. One of the most attractive of them all is *Bird-World, a Bird book for Children*, by J. H. Stickney (Ginn & Company). This is not a scientific book, though it is not unscientific. It is a little difficult to describe exactly the point of view taken, but there is no question as to the interest and variety of the contents. The illustrations are beautiful, several of them, and

include eight which are finely colored. No one could make a mistake by putting this book into the hands of any child, or into any school library.

THERE ought to be many users for the edition of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, which has been edited by Professor Kuhns, and published by Henry Holt & Co. Certainly, for timeliness in text-book making, nothing could exceed this enterprise. It is needless to say that the editorial work is well done, but it is by no means overdone, the introduction and notes taking altogether not more than a quarter of the book. For advanced classes in French, *Cyrano* will furnish a welcome variety to the old standbys, and ought, therefore, to be welcomed by both teachers and students.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co., have added Carl Schurz's Essay on Lincoln, to the Riverside Literature series, as No. 133. As is well known, Mr. Schurz joined himself with Lincoln in 1858 in the latter's memorable campaign against Douglas, and afterwards in Lincoln's presidency served under him as minister to Spain. Through these associations he gained a personal knowledge of Lincoln's character, from which he has drawn in the preparation of this remarkable essay. Teachers who are seeking reading matter of a sound patriotic character can do no better than to examine this interesting little book.

Philip's Experiments; or Physical Science at Home, by John Trowbridge (D. Appleton & Co.), presents in the form of a series of lectures the methods supposed to have been adopted by the writer in instructing his son Philip at home in the elements of science. The style of the work is, therefore narrative and informal. The book is designed to combat the notion held by many boys that they cannot acquire knowledge in any subject outside of schools by showing the interesting results that can be obtained by a few moments devoted each day at home to simple investigations. A boy with a taste for science would find this book interesting reading.

A Dictionary of University Degrees, by Flavel S. Thomas (C. W. Bardeen), has some interest as a compilation of all the curiosities in the way of degree giving that the author has been able to bring together. The explanations of the different degrees are brief and not always accurate; nor are the forms of abbreviations given always correct. The book is evidently a tentative publication, as every other page is left blank for the reader's corrections, but since the author had charge of this branch of the work in the *Standard Dictionary*, it would seem that he should either have produced a more finished treatise on the subject, or withstood the temptation to appear in print until he had completed his investigations.

THE need of a book on the art of questioning which should cover the subject adequately and afford sufficient preparation for the examination of training classes has long been manifest. The little treatises of Fitch and

Young, excellent in their way, have not been comprehensive enough. Mr. C. W. Bardeen with his usual enterprise has endeavored to supply this need in *A Manual of the Art of Questioning for Training Classes*, compiled from various works and especially from those of Joseph Landon, F. G. S. The book will be interesting and suggestive to teachers, and if it do no more than draw attention to the fact that questioning is an art worthy of study and careful practice, it will do good service.

A VALUABLE book of reference for those interested in higher education is *A Handbook of British, Continental, and Canadian Universities*, by Isabel Maddison (The Macmillan Company). The first edition of the work was undertaken in 1896, for the purpose of giving information as to the admission of women in different foreign universities. This purpose is not lost sight of in the present edition, but the material contained is quite as available for men as women. Nowhere else in English is so much interesting and valuable information in regard to the organization, lectures and management of foreign universities to be found as is contained in the pages of this useful little book.

INTEREST in the flag of the nation has sometimes sunk almost to the level of subconsciousness, but it has been very intense and conscious for the past year or more. The appearance, therefore, of *Our Country's Flag*, by Edward S. Holden (D. Appleton & Co.), was at an opportune time. The whole history of the development of the flag is given, and all the special flags used by the different branches of the navy and army are described as well as the flags of the chief foreign nations. The book is handsomely illustrated, not only with engravings, but with several full-page colored plates, which are well executed and attractive. The frontispiece is a beautiful plate of the standard flag of the United States.

The Art of Teaching, by David Salmon (Longmans, Green & Co.), is a distinctly interesting book. The field covered is that generally defined by the practice of teaching, and the usual subjects are discussed. The book is full of interesting historical allusions, the history of method not having been overlooked, and, more than that, different methods are usually fully and fairly presented. The treatment, therefore, is, to a certain extent, both historical and comparative. Those interested in the development of method will find much valuable material here. The author has avoided the usual pitfalls into which writers on method fall, and has produced a work which may be regarded as a distinct contribution to the literature on this subject.

The Dawn of Reason, by Dr. James Weir, Jr. (The Macmillan Company), is a most interesting discussion of mental traits in the lower animals. The book can be read with interest by those who are not technically engaged in scientific research, while scientists will find much that is suggestive and val-

uable. The various topics discussed are illustrated with numerous examples of animal instinct and reason, and these examples themselves make attractive reading. The book is, indeed, largely made up of illustrations from animal life, tending to show the possession by animals of some degree of reasoning power. The book possesses both scientific value and sweet readableness.

RECENT publications in Heath's Modern Language Series are: *Eingeschneit, Eine Studentengeschichte* von Emil Frommel, *Stille Wasser, Erzählungen von Anna von Krane, Hans Hoffman and Ernst von Wildenbruch*, both with introduction, notes and vocabulary by Dr. Wilhelm Bernhardt; *Aus dem Jahrhundert des grossen Krieges* von Gustav Freytag, abridged and edited by Lewis Addison Rhoades; *Histoire de Gil Blas De Santillane* par Alain-René Lesage, edited with introduction and notes, but no vocabulary, by Adolphe Cohn and Robert Sanderson; and *La Tulipe Noire* par Alexandre Dumas, edited with notes, but no vocabulary, by C. Fontaine. The absence of vocabulary in texts intended for advanced students is of less consequence, and we note with pleasure the presence of vocabulary in books intended for beginners.

AMONG the latest issues of the International Educational Series is *Letters to a Mother on the Philosophy of Froebel*, by Susan E. Blow (D. Appleton & Co.). The more students of education study Froebel the more are his contributions to the development of educational theory and practice understood and appreciated. He is a man who bears acquaintance. Miss Blow's standing and influence as an exponent of Froebelian principles are too well known to need comment. This book is not Froebel, but it is an attempt to explain in language addressed to the general public the philosophy of Froebel. Froebel is, no doubt, one of those authors who needs a mediator between himself and the general public, but after all the best thing is to study the man himself rather than about him, and it is to be hoped that this book will stimulate many to turn to Froebel's own writings in the search for his truth.

Through Boyhood to Manhood: A Plea for Ideals, by Ennis Richmond (Longmans, Green & Co.), is intended as an appeal to the Masters of Public Schools in England, and treats exclusively of English conditions. But the perils to which boyhood is exposed in passing into manhood are not peculiar to England or any land, and leaving out the arguments which apply to public school life in England, the rest of the material in this book is of general interest and value. The book is characterized by plain speaking upon topics which are generally avoided, or treated with indirectness and innuendo. The author is an earnest person who has risen from sentiment to sense, and who speaks of things as they are to the end that they may the better become what they ought to be. Shutting our eyes to certain disagreeable facts is not an effective way of remedying them. The book is wholesome and helpful reading for parents and schoolmasters.

GEOLOGICAL teaching in America owes a large debt to Professor James D. Dana, and it is fortunate that so sympathetic and skillful a hand as that of Professor William North Rice has had the task of revising his *Text-Book of Geology*, which in its fifth edition has been published by the American Book Company. The revision has been somewhat thorough. The zoölogical and botanical classifications used in the former edition were judged to be obsolete. They have been replaced so far as practicable by the classifications in the majority of recent manuals on zoölogy and botany. The theory of evolution has received fuller recognition than in the book as it was left after the final revision by Professor Dana. The revision is calculated to keep before students in schools and colleges the name and the scientific work of one of the greatest of our American geologists.

MR. C. W. BARDEEN is an educational publisher who has had the courage to bring out in translations and reprints a number of works that would otherwise be inaccessible to contemporary readers in this country. His latest venture in this direction is *Letters on Early Education*, addressed to J. P. Greaves, Esq., by Pestalozzi. These letters were translated from the German manuscript, and the manuscript itself has probably been lost. The present work is a reprint of the London edition of 1827. The translation is, on the whole, better than the results of most attempts to clarify and anglicize Pestalozzi's rather muddy German. It is the last and, in some respects, the fullest exposition of Pestalozzi's views, and its value is especially great now when so much effort is making to enlist the coöperation of mothers in the early education of children.

Work and Play in Girls' Schools (Longmans, Green & Co.) is the somewhat enigmatical title of an interesting treatise on education in general as specially applied to and adapted for girls. It is quite refreshing to find the education of the eternally feminine thus given a whole book by itself. The book is the work of several authors who have divided up the different departments between them. The whole constitutes something like a treatise on the theory and practice of education. The book is written from the English standpoint, and is adapted to schools specially for girls; yet it does not bristle at all with points of contrast between what is said and what might be said on the education of boys. For teachers in young ladies' seminaries in this country the book would undoubtedly have value, but, as our secondary schools are very generally coeducational, special methods for girls cannot be employed. Perhaps it would be as well if they might be. The author of the chapter on "The Cultivation of the Body" makes this interesting recommendation: "Dancing is also a capital form of exercise, provided it is not pursued as is sometimes the case, to the point of physical exhaustion. The art of fencing is also well worth acquiring. Also bicycle evolutions to music, and even roller skating." We quote this without daring to comment.